

**MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF SEAT PLEASANT
FISCAL YEAR 2015 BUDGET HEARING
SATURDAY, APRIL 26, 2014
10:00A.M.**

1. OPENING

1.1.1 Call to Order

Council President Yeargin called the meeting to order at 10:19a.m.

1.1.2 Roll Call

Present: Eugene Grant (Absent), Councilmember Johnie Higgs, Sr. (Absent), Councilmember Eugene Kennedy, Councilmember Kelly Porter (Absent), Councilmember Gerald R. Raynor, Sr. (Absent), Councilmember Elenora Simms, Councilmember Aretha Stephenson, Councilmember Reveral Yeargin

Staff: Robert Ashton, City Treasurer, Dashaun Lanham, City Clerk, Orson Carter, Assistant City Treasurer

2. Meeting Topics

2.1.1. FY2015 Proposed Budget Hearing

- Council President Yeargin stated that the City Council is holding the Budget Hearing in accordance to the Seat Pleasant City Charter to allow the residence the opportunity to provide input on the Proposed Budget.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS:

- Hayward Hodges-401 70th Pl, Seat Pleasant, MD-
- Mr. Hodges stated that he had concerns with section A2 the City Clerk budget.
- Mr. Hodges stated that the salary for the City Clerk seems to be a high.
- Council President Yeargin directed Mr. Hodges to page 9, which details the City Clerk salary.
- Mr. Hodges inquired of the percentage increase for the City Clerk.
- Mr. Ashton stated that the City Clerk budget has decreased by 5.1%
- Councilwoman Simms directed Mr. Hodges to page 7 and detailed the figures regarding the numbers.

- Councilmember Yeargin stated the elected officials should be removed from the City Clerk section of the budget.
- Councilwoman Stephenson stated that page 7 details the accomplishments in F2013 budget and page 8 provides the goals and objectives for the City Clerk.
- James Epperson-514 68th Pl-Seat Pleasant, MD
- Mr. Epperson inquired if this is the second meeting for the Budget Hearing.
- Council President Yeargin stated that the Council will be meeting twice to decided on the budget.
- Mr. Epperson stated that it would be nice if all the Council and the City Administrator was here to address the concerns.
- Mr. Epperson stated that he would like for the Council to go over the budget before the citizens have their comment.
- Mr. Epperson stated that he can break down his concerns and he sees that most of the people are getting percentage increases.
- Mr. Epperson stated that he feels that this budget is a slap in the face and the expense will be on the back of the citizens.
- Mr. Epperson stated that 99.3% of the budget is disapproved. He stated that they were debating Greendale for years.
- Mr. Epperson stated that he would like to know who will be inspecting the demolition.
- Mr. Epperson wanted to know if the stages of the work will be inspected as the work is going on.
- Council President Yeargin stated that the City Council has not decided on the plans for the Greendale Center.
- Mr. Ashton inquired of the specific question that Mr. Epperson had regarding the Greendale Center.
- Mr. Ashton explained that the demolition of the center will be covered in the current budget and no money has been proposed for the site in the current budget.
- Mr. Epperson inquired of the conversion of the Human Resources Officer.
- Mr. Ashton stated that the City does not need a full-time person in the position and will be contracting the position out to Paychex, which process our payroll. We will be using them on as needed basis.
- Mr. Epperson stated that the Council need to explain the budget to the residents, as he feels the budget is too fat.

- Mr. Epperson stated that he feels that the Professional Development amount of \$42,000 is too much for the council. He wanted to know if the Council would be bringing the information back to the residents on the conference and conventions.
- Councilwoman Simms stated that the Council is required to attend the MML and NLC conventions.
- Mr. Epperson stated that he feels the information can be shared in the Newsletter.
- Councilwoman Simms stated that some of the classes and what they gained from the classes are hard to explain, but we can provide you with the description of the classes.
- Mr. Epperson stated that his complaints or concerns do not seem to get addressed, but when he goes to the State he is getting responses.
- Mr. Epperson stated that when he call Councilwoman Simms she states that I told this person to do this and I don't understand why it's not done. He said that he will state to her to contact them.
- Mr. Colston-725 Carrington Pl, Seat Pleasant, MD
- Mr. Colston inquired if the Council could go over the budget so the citizens can ascertain what the Council is trying to do.
- Mr. Colston stated that they cannot go through the budget in one session, as they do not have the knowledge that the Council has.
- Council President Yeargin stated that the Council gets the budget from the Mayor the first Monday in April and by law they need to approve the next budget by July 1.
- Mr. Colston stated that they need to send out another memo to inform the residents of the budget review.
- Council President Yeargin stated that the Council had sent out a notice in the Newsletter and mailings to each household.
- Council President Yeargin stated that the hearing is for the residents to provide their comments regarding the budget.
- Mr. Roosevelt Cox-6020 Crown St., Seat Pleasant, MD
- Mr. Cox stated that on page 48 it does not provide what the City had earned for FY2013 and FY2014.
- Mr. Carter stated that he has been with the City for about a one year six months.

- Mr. Carter stated that the Speed Camera section is a new section in the budget. He stated that this is a savings to the citizens
- Mr. Cox stated that this is revenue for the City and it should be shown in the budget.
- Mr. Carter stated that the speed camera money is listed in revenue side of the budget in the prior years.
- Mr. Ashton stated that the speed camera funds had gone into effect in 2010 and we had set-up a speed camera fund.
- Mr. Ashton stated that in prior years the City used tax payer money to install speed humps. The City has purchased vehicles for the Police Department, and installed speed humps.
- Mr. Cox stated that it appears that it is a waste of money by moving the Police Department from the Feggans Center to around the corner.
- Mr. Cox stated that what does the Code Enforcement Officer do to earn \$40,000 per year. He stated that he mainly see him riding around in his own vehicle.
- Mr. Cox stated that how come the Code Enforcer make the \$40,000 per year and the Police Officers are making less, but are doing more.
- Councilwoman Stephenson stated that on Page 27 provides the goals and accomplishment of the department.
- Mr. Cox stated that the residents do not know if these accomplishment were done, as he feels what they are listing can be done in one day.
- Councilwoman Stephenson stated that the City does have a job description of the Code Enforcement Officer, which provides more details of their responsibilities.
- Mr. Cox inquired of the City Administrator requesting a salary increase of \$20,000 and she has a two year contract.
- Council President Yeargin stated the employees are evaluated on annual basis and the City Administrator had not been evaluated.
- Mr. Cox stated that the City Administrator is proposing that her salary will be \$100,000 if the request is approved.
- Councilwoman Simms stated that the proposed budget is a wish list. She stated that in her opinion some of the request are ridiculous.
- Councilwoman Simms stated that what she thought we would do in the beginning is for the Council to go through each column and explained it.
- Mr. Cox inquired if the City Administrator contract will be renewed at the end of the two years.

- Councilwoman Simms stated that she would like to see the building restored with a recreation center and office space.
- Mr. Cox inquired of the Police Department salary and the number of employees in the Department.
- Mr. Cox stated he does not feel the City Administrator should be making the money that is in the budget. He feels that the Council can find someone just as good and cheap. He do not care if they have a degree or not.
- Mr. Ashton stated that the Council and the Mayor do not want to use the tax payer money. The desire is to use the Speed Camera money in the areas that they can.
- Mr. Ashton provided a breakdown of the cost that was used for the speed camera money.
- Mr. Cox stated that he wanted to know as citizen what the money will be used for in FY2015.
- Councilwoman Simms stated that the speed camera money can be used for public safety and the two positions that are allowed for the money.
- Mr. Ashton stated the City was very cautious on how the money was legislated.
- Mr. Colston stated that it was a suggestion by the Councilwoman to provide the citizens with the breakdown of the budget.
- Mr. Ashton stated that the page 1-4 provides the proposed revenue and from page 5-49 explains how the City will spend the revenue.
- Mr. Ashton stated that the first column is the account numbers provided by the State, the second column provides the name of the account number, the third column tells you what was spent in the current budget, the next column is the approved budget and the next column is the revenue spent in the first 7 months of the fiscal year and the last column is the proposed budget.
- Mr. Hodges stated that he has two concerns in the budget. He wanted to know if the Code Enforcer could provide a detail of the duties and he stated that he would like to know what the Council get out of the seminars when they attend.
- Mr. Cox inquired if the Police Department will be owning the building.
- Mr. Cox inquired of the cost of the building.
- Mr. Carter stated that the cost of the building is approximately \$150,000, but he could get the actual cost from his office.
- Ms. Jacqui Battle-500-504 70th St., Seat Pleasant, MD.
- Ms. Battle stated that Council President Yeargin was being very arrogant.

- Ms. Battle stated that she has a concern about the salary upgrade for the City Administrator.
- Ms. Battle stated that if the Council approves the proposed salary increase for the City Administrator will the contract be renewed by the Council.
- Mr. Ashton stated the budget is the proposed budget presented by the Mayor and the Council has not decided on the figures in the budget.
- Ms. Battle stated that she feels if the Council provide the increase to the City Administrator under her current contract, it would be a breach of the contract.
- Councilwoman Simms stated that if the Council and the person agree, the contract will be extended based on an increase.
- Councilwoman Simms stated that most of the Council do not agree to the requested \$20,000 increase.
- Ms. Battle stated that the Economic Development will provide jobs to the residents, which is not being done.
- Ms. Battle stated that the lights are out on several streets and she feels that the speed camera fund can pay for the lights.
- Ms. Battle stated that she feels that the City Clerk is under paid and deserves a raise.
- Mr. Wallace 122 68th Pl., Seat Pleasant, MD
- Mr. Wallace stated that the budget has a lot of flaws and he does this kind of work.
- Mr. Wallace stated that he feels that when a document is provided as thick of the budget it requires time to review.
- Mr. Wallace stated that he would like to see what the Council will decide on the budget.
- Councilwoman Simms stated that the citizens can come to the meetings in May when the Council completes their review.
- Councilwoman Stephenson stated that last year we had a few residents that participated in the budget hearing and we explained the budget to them.
- Councilwoman Stephenson stated that when residents see Budget Hearing, the budget is available for the residents to receive.
- Councilwoman Stephenson stated that she apologize that the budget was not provided to the resident prior to today.
- Councilwoman Stephenson stated that she works for the residents this is not a pleasure cruise for her.

- Councilwoman Stephenson stated that the residents can call her or any Councilmember with their questions.
- Councilwoman Simms stated that the citizens has the right to come to any meeting, but they will not have the right to speak except for in the Public Sessions.
- Council President Yeargin stated that the residents are welcome to stay in the meeting today

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

4.1.1. City Council Budget Review, Saturday, May 3, 2014, Council Chambers at 9:00am -5:00p.m.

4.1.2. Regular Work Session, Monday May 5, 2014, Council Chambers at 6:00p.m.

4.1.3. Public Session, Monday, May 12, 2014, Council Chambers at 7:00p.m.

4.1.4. Annual Seat Pleasant Day, Saturday, May 17, 2014, Parade 10:00am, Goodwin Park Activities 12:00pm

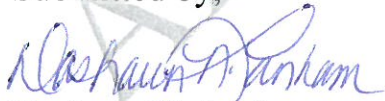
4.1.5. Ward II Community Meeting, Thursday, May 22, 2014 from 6:00p.m.-8:00p.m., Pleasant Homes Community Center-6810 Greig St., Seat Pleasant, MD 20743

4.1.6. Regular Work Session, Monday, June 2, 2014, Council Chambers at 6:00p.m.

4.1.7. Public Session, Monday, June 16, 2014, Council Chambers at 7:00p.m

ADJOURN-The meeting was adjourned at 12:35p.m.

Submitted by,



Dashaun N. Lanham
City Clerk